

to bring the AARP out to tell every Senator, all 100 of us, that this is the most important thing they have had in a long time before the Senate. It will give 21½ million seniors a few dollars to spend to make this economy better. We are going to do it as expeditiously as we can. We believe it is the right thing to do, and we are going to move along in that manner.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOVERY REBATES AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ACT OF 2008— MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 566, H.R. 5140, and I send a motion to the desk, a cloture motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 566, H.R. 5140, the economic stimulus bill.

Max Baucus, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Kent Conrad, Jeff Bingaman, Blanche L. Lincoln, Debbie Stabenow, Maria Cantwell, Ken Salazar, Herb Kohl, Daniel K. Inouye, Byron L. Dorgan, Mark L. Pryor, Robert Menendez, Jon Tester, Christopher J. Dodd, Barbara A. Mikulski, Joseph I. Lieberman.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived and the cloture vote occur at 5:30 on Monday, February 4.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I now withdraw the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

Mr. REID. Finally, let me say, I appreciate the patience of my counterpart, Senator McConnell. On Tuesday, I can't really say this; we weren't that close. But all day Wednesday, all day today, we have been this close. We have had the FISA thing worked out so many different times, and each time—not each time but a number of those times I either sent a message to the distinguished Republican leader or actually called him, sent him a letter. I have really tried very hard to finish this. I want to do it because we have a February 15 cutoff date. I don't want to jam the minority, and I don't want to jam the House. I think we have an obligation as a body to get something over

there as quickly as possible, “over there” meaning to the House. Because once that happens, I would like to think that then it is up to the House and the Senate to work this out. But we know how conferences work. The White House is going to be heavily involved in what the final product is because there is no need, at least in my estimation, to pass something that has “veto” written all over it. If it comes to that, then I can accept a veto. But at least we need to give the White House an opportunity, after we pass whatever we do here, and the House has already done their work, that when we do this conference, we know and have input from the White House. If the decision is made after that, we are going to just go forward anyway. That is what we do. But I want to make sure everyone understands, I am trying to do this as fairly as I can, recognizing there are heavy emotions on both sides of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act extension we are trying to do. There are divisions within the Democratic caucus. Not all Democrats agree how it should be handled. That is why we have worked so hard coming up with this agreement to move forward on it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I certainly don't fault the majority leader, but this has indeed been an exasperating week. We had our one and only vote last Monday and have had none since. At that time I was optimistic that we were on the cusp of two important bipartisan accomplishments at the beginning of the second session of the 110th on two extraordinarily important issues. We had seen on the stimulus side an example of the administration and the Speaker of the House and the Republican leader of the House coming together behind a package and passing it in record time, by a stunning, overwhelming majority, and sending it over to us. We have appeared to be on the verge of getting a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act out of the Senate basically in the same form it came out of the Intelligence Committee, 13 to 2, a Rockefeller-Bond proposal which the President has indicated he would sign.

My optimism waned somewhat during the course of the week, but I heard my dear friend, the majority leader, reiterate once again that he thinks we can finish both of these jobs, and finish them soon, and hopefully get back about that on Monday. I am hoping for a better week next week. We are ever so close to achieving something important for the country in two areas that are of great concern to the American people, the state of our economy on the one hand and protecting us from terrorists on the other. Hopefully, next week will be a better week.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH INSURANCE CARDS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to express some disappointment with some items that we were not able to accomplish last year. I hope we will quickly turn to these priorities the first thing this year.

My wife Diana and I travel to different parts of Wyoming most weekends. The No. 1 issue on people's minds is health care. Well, maybe it is the economy. But when they talk about the economy, they are talking about health care. They may be talking about some housing crunches. They may be talking about some other things. But I can tell you that to a person they think health care is a big part of the economy, and health care is someplace that we ought to be doing something. They all ask me what I am doing to make sure they have health care. I tell them about the things I am doing to increase access, to decrease costs, to promote informed choices, and to ensure that health care is more affordable, and everyone gets it.

I also want to say, everyone understands it. Our constituents deserve our help. I hope we are able to really do something on health care early this year. This doesn't need to be the subject of every debate by the Presidential candidates. There is a lot of overlap in what the Presidential candidates are saying. The people don't want to wait until November in order to be able to wait until the next year in order to wait for us to do something. There is plenty of things out there that can be done. So I hope we are able to do something about health care, and do it now.

It is time for real action. All eyes are on this Congress to get something done. After this last week of having one vote, I think they are hoping we can either get FISA done or maybe we can get a stimulus package done. Get something done. Maybe it would be easier to be doing something in the area of health care. That is a big concern of theirs.

It is shameful we haven't been able to make sure that all Americans have access to affordable health insurance. I am saying: Do something. The people of Wyoming are saying to me: Do something. Even if it is wrong, it will at least be something. And it might help.

Now, as the senior Republican on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, I spend a lot of time working on solutions to our health care crisis. I have even talked to